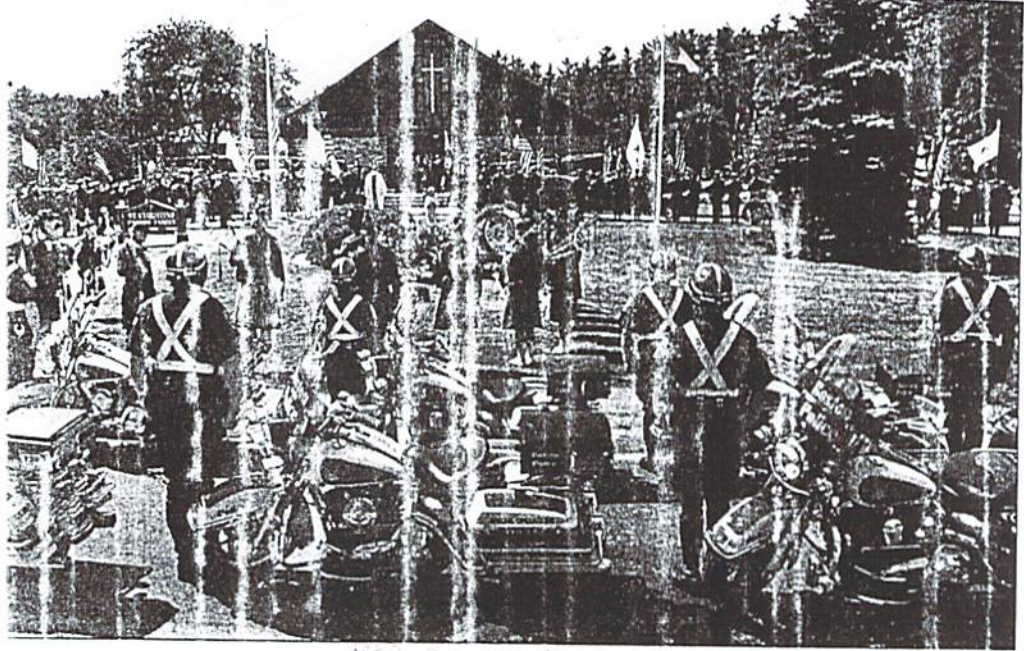


# Officers honor Dyer



Police assembly outside at St. Christine's Church in Marshfield for the funeral of officer Mel Dyer.

STAFF PHOTOS/CHRIS BERNSTEIN

## Police from around state come to officer's funeral

By Lydia Mulvany  
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Police motorcycles from towns around the Commonwealth proceeded down Route 139 Tuesday morning, blue lights flashing under a cloudy sky, followed by a black funeral coach and police cars.

Marshfield, Mashpee, Melrose, Mendon, Plymouth, Weymouth, Plympton and Whitman read some of the motorcycles, which alone numbered more than 100, according to a police estimate.

The motorcade was honoring Marshfield resident and part-time Duxbury police officer Mel E. Dyer, who died in a car accident while directing traffic at the Marshfield Fair on Aug. 16. (See obituary on page 9.) Dyer's funeral was held at St. Christine's Church in Marshfield. Among the guests was Gov. Deval Patrick.

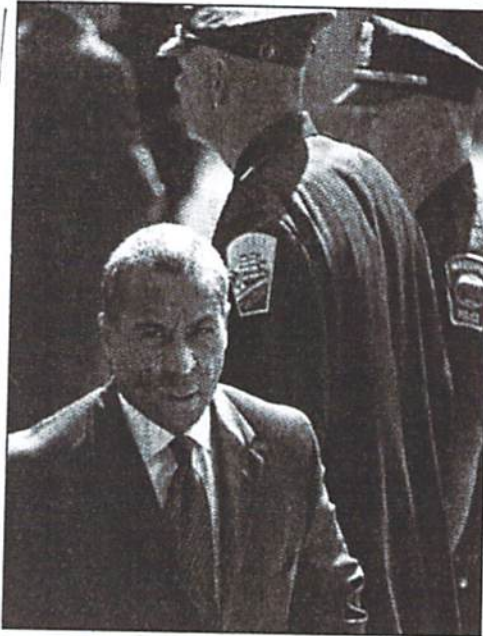
As the motorcade approached the church on Main Street, the skies cleared. The mournful harmonies of Rachmaninoff wafted out of the church doors onto the lawn, where rows of officers stood straight with gloved hands in fists, and it smelled of horses from nearby officers on horseback.

A massive American flag hung from the fully extended crane of a fire truck, and the motorcycles and cars filed under it into the parking lot, one by one. The lot swelled with officers, who stood by their vehicles, hands behind their backs, some at their sides.

Next in the procession came flag and rifle bearers, who walked a slow step to the beat of the drummers. Bagpipers, who played earlier that morning, wore their kilts and high boots. At the entrance to the church, officers as diverse as the Wareham Police honor guard and the Massachusetts Department of Corrections saluted the procession as it passed them.

**"Every agency in the Commonwealth is represented here today. It signifies the brotherhood and camaraderie of police."**

Bob Hayden



Gov. Deval Patrick leaves Mel Dyer's memorial service.



# Officers honor Dyer

"Every agency in the Commonwealth is represented here today," said Bob Hayden, a retired police chief from Lawrence. "It signifies the brotherhood and camaraderie of police."

Hayden said 20 motorcycles from Boston alone came, and that Police Commissioner Ed Davis was in attendance.

"This is a phenomenal tribute," he said.

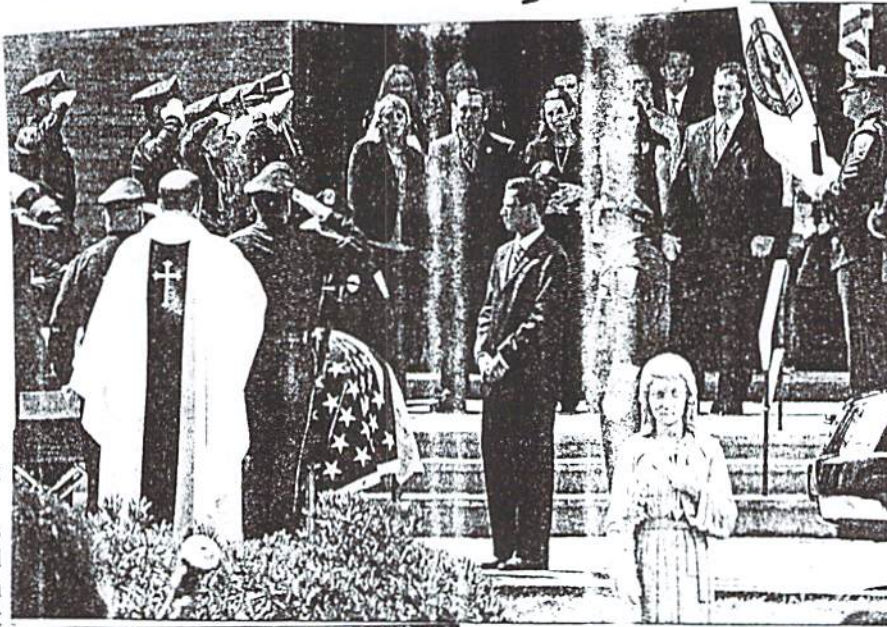
Hayden praised Duxbury Police Chief Mark DeLuca's leadership during the last weeks.

"From the day this man was hurt, he went every day and night to visit his bedside, even when it was obvious he wasn't going to get better," he said.

"He's been an absolute example of leadership during this whole time," said Sgt. Michael Roberts of Duxbury.

Before he was a police officer in Duxbury, Dyer served in the Marine Corps for 20 years, where he received a Purple Heart. After his service he worked in insurance for 20 years, and then worked as a reserve deputy for the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office.

Dyer was known as someone who loved community service. He was president of the Marshfield Rod and Gun Club, and taught gun safety courses at senior and student police academies in Duxbury.



Family members stand on the front steps of St. Christine's Church as fellow officers salute Mel Dyer.



A mounted Boston police officer and large American flag await the arrival of the funeral procession at St. Christine's.



Duxbury officers, from left, Thomas Brown, Daniel Brown and Chris Coppage await the funeral procession for officer Mel Dyer at St. Christine's Church in Marshfield.